

**MELANITIS LEDA BANKIA (FABRICIUS) (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE)
IN SYDNEY AND ON NORFOLK ISLAND**

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This short note reports recent observations on the Evening Brown Butterfly, [*Melanitis leda bankia* (Fabricius)] in the Sydney area and on Norfolk Island, from which it has not previously been recorded.
Sydney area

Common and Waterhouse (1972) report the Evening Brown as rare in the Sydney district. The only specimens apparently so far recorded as captured in the area are those of Haines (1972) (three in January and February, 1970) and Tremont (1973) (one in August, 1969). Haines (*l.c.*) also reports sightings for November, 1969. The species has been reported twice from New Zealand (Holloway, 1962; Fox, 1973).

The following additional captures are now recorded: 1 ♂, flying over uncut grasses, Turrumurra Oval, Turrumurra, 7.ii.1974 (C. N. Smithers); 2 ♂, Bundeena, 8.ii.1970; 2 ♀, Bateau Bay (77 km. north east of Sydney), 10.iii.1968 (G. Daniels). Mr. Daniels reports seeing a specimen at Gynea Bay in January, 1970. Bundeena is the southernmost locality so far recorded for the species. The above specimens are all of the so-called "winter form". 1 ♀, Oatley Park, Oatley West, ii.1974 (R. A. Shaw) ("summer form").

From the Sydney area, therefore, we have specimens reported during the 1969-70 (several records) and 1973-74 seasons. There is no evidence to suggest that *M. leda* is a strong migrant and regular long-distance movement is very unusual in the Satyrinae although the New Zealand records mentioned above clearly indicate that it does occur sometimes, probably with wind assistance. The colonization of islands by *M. leda* probably occurs from time to time in the same way. From the records for Sydney over the past few years it seems that the species is a resident but that population levels are low. Its crepuscular habits make it inconspicuous and easily overlooked. Greater attention by collectors to areas of rank grasses, such as uncut buffalo grass, when the light is fading and the butterflies are active, would help to establish its true status in Sydney.

Norfolk Island

In October, 1973, I received from Mrs. M. Jowett, of Norfolk Island, two photographs of a specimen of *M. leda* collected on the island by Mr. D. Marshall (date not recorded). After being photographed the specimen was damaged but the fore wings were saved; photographs and wings are in the Australian Museum.

This specimen represents the first record of the species from Norfolk Island and is of the "winter" form. As there has been some attention to the butterflies there over the past few years and *M. leda* has not been seen, it is probably a recent arrival.

Acknowledgements

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References

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- Tremont, S., 1973. A further Sydney record of the Evening Brown butterfly *Melanitis leda bankia* (Fabricius) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). *Aust. ent. Mag.* 1(5): 59.

RECENT LITERATURE

Compiled by M. S. Moulds

This section attempts to fulfil the need for a comprehensive list of current Australian entomological literature. It is arranged so that the listings may be used to compile personal bibliographies concerning specialised interests. It dates back to the beginning of 1972.

If you have published anything concerning Australian insects since the beginning of 1972 and it is not listed in this, or previous issues of *Aust. ent. Mag.*, I would be grateful if you would advise me accordingly so that such literature can be listed in the next issue.

BACCETTI, Baccio

1975. Notulae Orthopterologicae. XXXI. On a new Australian *Myrmecophilus* (Grylloidea: Myrmecophilidae) described with the aid of the scanning electron microscope. *J. Aust. ent. Soc.* 14(1): 31-42, text-figs 1-44.

BACCHUS, M. E.

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BRITTON, E. B.

1974. *Tripectenopus occultus* sp. n., an eyeless beetle (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) from a Western Australian cave. *J. Aust. ent. Soc.* 13(2): 85-87, text-figs 1-7.

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BROCK, Paul D.

1974. Growing the Australian stick-insect, *Extatosoma tiaratum*. *T.J.E.G. Newsl.* 8(4): 20-21, illustr.

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